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23363 7590 03/17/2010

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP
PO BOX 7068
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068

EXAMINER

SALIARD, SHANNON S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/944,534

08/31/2001

Blake MingQi Dong

47013/PAN/S850

3296

TITLE OF INVENTION: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION OF VALUE BEARING ITEMS IN A PC POSTAGE SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	06/17/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

23363 7590 03/17/2010

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP
PO BOX 7068
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068

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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/944,534 08/31/2001 Blake MingQi Dong 47013/PAN/S850 3296

TITLE OF INVENTION: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION OF VALUE BEARING ITEMS IN A PC POSTAGE SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$0 \$0 \$1510 06/17/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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SALIARD, SHANNON S 3628 705-401000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

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Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,534	08/31/2001	Blake MingQi Dong	47013/PAN/S850	3296
23363	7590	03/17/2010	EXAMINER	
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP PO BOX 7068 PASADENA, CA 91109-7068			SALIARD, SHANNON S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3628	
DATE MAILED: 03/17/2010				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 797 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 797 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/944,534

Applicant(s)

DONG ET AL.

Examiner

SHANNON S. SALIARD

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/16/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Kimbell on 8 March 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling the distribution of expiring free postage value in a PC postage system, which free postage value is provided free of charge by a third party to a user and will expire after a time period has elapsed if such free postage is not used up by the user, as opposed to postage value owned by the user which will not expire after a period of time has elapsed, the method comprising the steps of:

the third party₁ providing by a computer server, expiring free postage value in a first portion and a second portion and the computer server transferring the first portion of said expiring free postage value provided by the third party to a user's postage meter where it is available for use by the user;

storing₁ in the third party computer server₁ the second portion of said expiring free postage value in a free postage account for the user ~~at a third party computer~~

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server, which second portion of said expiring free postage value remains unavailable for use by the user unless and until part of or all of the second portion is transferred by the computer server to the user's postage meter during a time period set by the third party; [[and]]

transferring part of or all of the second portion, by the computer server, to the user's postage meter during the time period set by the third party;

determining, by the computer server, that [[after]] the time period set by the third party has elapsed[.,,]; and indicating to the computer server that the untransferred balance of said second portion of said expiring free postage value held for the user in the third party computer server is no longer useable.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing a portion of free postage value from said free postage account at the third party computer server to said user's postage meter when the balance of said postage meter is less than or equal to said threshold.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of decrementing said free postage account in accordance with said block of the second portion of free transferred postage.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing purchased postage value in an available postage account.

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5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of utilizing said expiring free postage value before said purchased postage value.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying a sum of total expiring free postage value and purchased postage value in an available postage field.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of decrementing said available postage field in accordance with a print transaction.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of utilizing said expiring free postage value before said purchased postage value.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising notifying user upon expiration of said free postage value.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing purchased postage value and balance of the postage meter in a descending register.

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11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of decrementing the descending register in accordance with a print transaction.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining whether postage meter balance is equal to or greater than a predetermined threshold.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of transferring a block of the second portion of free postage value from said free postage account to said postage meter in accordance with said threshold determination.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of determining validity of said expiring free postage value in response to receipt of a print postage request and wherein said free postage account is reset in accordance with said validity determination.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of determining whether balance of said free postage value is equal to or greater than a value of requested postage and transferring a block of free postage value from said free postage account to said postage meter in accordance with the amount determination.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of decrementing said free postage account in accordance with the transferred postage.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of generating print image in accordance with said amount determination.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of determining whether a balance of total purchased postage value and free postage value is equal to or greater than the value of requested postage.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of generating error message in accordance with said amount determination.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of generating print image in accordance with said amount determination.

21. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling the distribution of expiring free postage in a PC postage system, which free postage value is provided free of charge by a third party to a user and will expire after a time period has elapsed if such free postage is not used up by the user, as opposed to postage value owned by the user which will not expire after a period of time has elapsed, the method comprising the steps of:

storing untransferred expiring free postage value provided by the third party in a free postage account for the user at a third party computer server wherein the untransferred expiring free postage value remains unavailable and subject to expiration if not transferred by the computer server to the user within a time period set by the third party;

transferring by the computer server a portion of said expiring free postage value from said free postage account to a user's postage meter in accordance with a print postage request made before expiration of the time period; and

resetting, by the computer server, to zero an untransferred balance of said free postage account for the user in the third party computer server after the time period has elapsed.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of decrementing said free postage account in accordance with said transferred postage value.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of displaying a sum of the expiring free postage value and purchased postage value in an available postage field.

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24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of decrementing said available postage field in accordance with a print transaction.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of utilizing said expiring free postage value before said purchased postage.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of determining the validity of said expiring free postage value in response to receipt of said print postage request, wherein said free postage account is reset in accordance with said validity determination.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of determining whether the balance of the free postage account is equal to or greater than a value of requested postage and wherein the step of transferring a portion of the expiring free postage value to said postage meter comprises transferring a portion of the expiring free postage value in accordance with the amount determination.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of decrementing said free postage account in accordance with the transferred postage value.

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29. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of generating print image in accordance with said amount determination.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of determining whether balance of total purchased postage value and free postage value is equal to or greater than value of requested postage.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of generating an error message in accordance with said amount determination.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of generating a print image in accordance with said amount determination.

33. (Currently amended) A PC postage system that controls the distribution of expiring free postage value, which free postage value is provided free of charge by a third party to a user and will expire after a time period has elapsed if such free postage is not used up by the user, as opposed to postage value owned by the user which will not expire after a period of time has elapsed, the system comprising:

means for storing expiring free postage value₁ provided by a third party₁ to a user in a free postage account for the user at a third party computer server, the expiring free postage value in the free postage account at the third party server remaining unavailable for use by the user unless and until part of or all of such expiring free

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postage value is transferred by the computer server to a user's postage meter, and such untransferred expiring free postage value being canceled by the computer server after a period of time set by the third party if the expiring free postage value has not been transferred to the user's postage meter;

means for transferring ~~by the computer server~~ a portion of said expiring free postage value from said free postage account to the postage meter of the user in accordance with a print postage request if the period of time has not elapsed; and

means for resetting ~~by the computer server~~ to zero an untransferred balance of said free postage account for the user in the third party server upon expiration of said free postage value after the time period has elapsed.

34. (Previously Presented) The PC postage system of claim 33 further comprising means for decrementing said free postage account in accordance with said transferred postage value.

35. (Previously Presented) The PC postage system of claim 33 further comprising means for displaying sum of the expiring free postage value and purchased postage value in an available postage field.

36. (Original) PC postage system of claim 35 further comprising means for decrementing said available postage field in accordance with a print transaction.

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37. (Previously Presented) The PC postage system of claim 33 further comprising means for determining validity of said expiring free postage value in response to receipt of said print postage request, wherein said free postage account is reset in accordance with said validity determination.

38. (Currently amended) A method of managing free postage in a computer postage system, which free postage is provided free of charge by a third party to a user and will expire after a time period has elapsed if such free postage is not used up by the user, as opposed to postage value owned by the user which will not expire after a period of time has elapsed, the method comprising:

generating₁ by a computer server₁ an account to track expiring free postage value separate from purchased postage value, which account is maintained by a third party in the computer server;

receiving₁ at the computer server₁ a request to print postage by a user's computer;

the computer server checking for expiration of the expiring free postage value in the account; [[and]]

transferring a portion of unexpired free postage value to the user's computer; and

after a time period set by the third party has elapsed, indicating to the computer server that ~~the an~~ an untransferred balance of ~~said second portion of~~ said expiring free postage value held for the user in the third party computer server is no longer useable.

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39. (Previously Presented) The method of managing free postage in a computer postage system of claim 38, further comprising: applying available free postage value to the request to print postage if free postage value is available; and applying purchased postage to the request to print postage if free postage value is not available.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of **reasons for allowance**:

The closest prior art of record is an article entitled, "Neopost's Simply Postage, the first PC-based postage system to hit the retail market, is a winner", by Kathy Yakal (hereinafter referred to as 'Yakal'), U.S. Patent No. 4,864,506 to Storace, U.S. Patent No. 5,819,240 to Kara, U.S. Patent No. 6,619,544 to Bator et al.

Yakal discloses transferring free postage value, provided by a third party, to a user's postage meter (pg. 1, par. 2-4).

Storace discloses maintaining an account, corresponding to a user's postage meter, at a third party server, wherein a first portion of postage is transferred to a user's postage meter and a second portion remains available at the third party server (col 2, lines 18-25; col 4, line 64-col 5, line 5; col 8, lines 1-8).

Kara discloses replenishing a postage meter upon expiration of a postage amount (col 1, lines 46-51).

Bator et al discloses a third party providing a user with a free postage value at the user's postage meter (col 3, lines 14-18; col 9, lines 18-37)

As per claims 1, 21, 33, and 38, the closest prior art of record taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest storing, in the third party computer server, the second portion of said expiring free postage value in a free postage account for the user, which second portion of said expiring free postage value remains unavailable for use by the user unless and until part of or all of the second portion is transferred by the computer server to the user's postage meter during a time period set by the third party; transferring part of or all of the second portion, by the computer server, to the user's postage meter during the time period set by the third party; determining that the time period set by the third party has elapsed; and indicating to the computer server that the untransferred balance of said second portion of said expiring free postage value held for the user in the third party computer server is no longer useable. The specific allowable feature, which distinguishes the present invention over the prior art of record, is determining that the time period set by the third party has elapsed; and indicating to the computer server that the untransferred balance of said second portion of said expiring free postage value held for the user in the third party computer server is no longer useable.

Claims 2-20 are dependent upon claim 1 and thus have all the limitations of claim 1 and are allowable for that reason. Claims 22-32 are dependent upon claim 21 and thus have all the limitations of claim 21 and are allowable for that reason. Claims 34-37 are dependent upon claim 33 and thus have all the limitations of claim 33 and are allowable for that reason. Claim 39 is dependent upon claim 38 and thus has all the limitations of claim 38 and is allowable for that reason.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHANNON S. SALIARD whose telephone number is (571)272-5587. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Shannon S Saliard
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3628

/Shannon S Saliard/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628